

Hopkinton/Webster Landfill Committee
Meeting Minutes January 8, 2009

Present: Karen Irwin, Richard Kennedy, Louise Carr, Bob Drown, Linda Hook and Steve Clough
Also Present: Webster Selectman Tom Mullins, Sally Embley, Bob LaPree

The meeting started at 7:00 pm at the Webster Town Hall.

The December meetings minutes were approved subject to an additional paragraph to be added reiterating that Webster committee members opposed the SMART PAYT proposal for the same reasons that was outlined in the Landfill Committee's report that was submitted to the respective Boards of Selectman.

The committee discussed possible future expansion of the Recycling Center (baling building), which was constructed in 2001 at a cost of \$35,000 and an additional \$10,000 in grants. Steve explained that in the 1990's recycling was instituted at the MSW facility that cost the communities \$50,000 and approximately \$40,000 in grant money. This investment has yielded the towns over \$550,000 of net revenue and savings, which is above and beyond all processing and shipping costs. The future expansions may include an extended overhang on the backside of the baling building to allow the haulers to dump directly into the recycling bays and to allow a second stream of vehicles to improve the traffic flow especially on the weekends. Another area that could use improvement would be to build dry storage to handle consolidation and exporting of recycled goods. The improvements are estimated to be about \$20,000. The question was raised concerning the single stream recycling center that was being proposed and how that would impact Hopkinton's MSW facility. At the present time it is uncertain what will happen regarding the proposed facility but Hopkinton & Webster was assured that they would not have to participate if they voted not to. The question was also raised if money should be spent out of the Revolving Fund with the uncertain economic times that we are now facing. Revenues for recycling have tanked at the present time and certain goods are being stored waiting for a higher yield.

The Environmental Center as proposed would cost approximately \$36,000 that would come from the Recycling Revolving Fund. To go totally green would eventually pay for itself. It was stated that single stream recycling is the easiest form of recycling and making accommodations at the MSW facility would not be very difficult or cost prohibitive. The disadvantage is the loss of revenues generated from the sale of recycled goods. The transfer station presently costs the taxpayer \$1.50 week to operate because 60% of the budget is paid from non-tax revenues. Further discussions regarding the Environmental Center will take place at next month's meeting when we have a better cost analysis on the recycling center expansion project.

Chairman Irwin asked the committee what they would like to see on the Landfill Committee web page. Some of the suggestions included:

- Landfill Committee report regarding PAYT proposal

- Meeting agendas

- Meeting minutes

- List of accepted recyclables at the transfer station, first review Goffstown's list for ideas to improve our own layout listing recyclables

- Refuse ordinance

Bob Drown asked the committee their position on mandatory recycling. This subject was brought up at last month's meeting by the private haulers. Bob is against mandatory recycling, as it should be something each individual should do on their own rather than being required. Webster members concurred that they do not see the benefit for their town residents who mainly drive to the transfer station to dispose of trash & recycled goods. Hopkinton members also agreed that they prefer not to see mandatory recycling. Steve explained it is not successful without the curbside pickup as it is difficult to control and enforce. At the present time there doesn't seem to be any financial support from the Hopkinton Board of Selectman for curbside pickup.

Bob also asked if anyone has heard back from Noah Booth regarding his Eagle Scout recycling bins project. No one has heard from Noah yet. Bob wanted to know if the committee was in favor of taking the money from the revolving fund to underwrite this project. He did not want to give Noah false hopes if the committee was not going to support underwriting the project. There was mixed reviews about the project but a majority of the members wanted to receive more information before making a final decision.

Chairman Irwin passed out a copy of the draft SMART warrant article that the Hopkinton Board of Selectman recommended. Bob LaPree, Recycling Committee member, gave a brief overview of the proposal. Karen also informed the committee that the Hopkinton Selectman are reviewing options for public water systems for homes that have contaminated wells from the landfill. Not all of the costs have been determined but a bond may need to be purchased in order to rectify the problem. Other options may be to extend the water precinct to help offset the costs.

The election of officers and committee terms were discussed. Webster member Gordon Welch has had to resign due to new job responsibilities. Webster member Linda Hook would like to serve another term. Hopkinton member Peter Russell officially resigned from the committee after a leave of absence. Alternate Richard Kennedy would like to become a full member. Hopkinton member Louise Carr expressed her intentions of resigning from the committee. She expressed dissatisfaction from the lack of support the Hopkinton Board of Selectman have given the committee over the last year. Karen Irwin recommended Bob LaPree to fill the vacant position once Louise officially resigns. This nomination was not well received by the majority of the committee members.

The meeting ended at 8:45 pm.

Next meeting will be February 5th at the Slusser Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise Carr